

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims set forth below is to replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26 (canceled)

Claims 27-125 (canceled)

Claim 126 (previously presented) A composition comprising:

one or more natural isomers of reduced folate in an amount effective for the treatment and/or prevention of vascular disease and/or in an amount effective for reducing a female's risk of having a miscarriage and/or of having a fetus with a neural tube defect, a cleft lip defect, and/or a cleft palate defect, wherein said one or more natural isomers of reduced folate is selected from the group consisting of (6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5-methyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 10-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5,10-methylene-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5,10-methenyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5-formimino-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, and polyglutamyl derivatives thereof; and

a nutritional substance selected from the group consisting of a food preparation, an essential nutrient preparation, and combinations thereof;

wherein, when the nutritional substance is a food preparation, the food preparation comprises two or more food components and each gram of said food preparation has a natural molar amount, N, of said one or more natural isomers of reduced folate, wherein N is greater or equal to zero and wherein each gram of said composition has a total molar amount, T, of said one or more natural isomers of reduced folate greater than N;

wherein, when the nutritional substance is an essential nutrient preparation, the essential nutrient preparation comprises a vitamin other than ascorbic acid.

Claim 127 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 126, wherein, when said composition comprises an amount of 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, said composition further comprises no 5-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, or, if present, said composition further comprises 5-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid in an amount less than the amount of 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid present in said composition.

Claim 128 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 126, wherein, when the nutritional substance is an essential nutrient preparation, the essential nutrient preparation further comprises ascorbic acid.

Claim 129 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 126, wherein, when the nutritional substance is an essential nutrient preparation, the essential nutrient preparation is substantially free of ascorbic acid.

Claim 130 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 126, wherein the one or more natural isomers of reduced folate is 5-methyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid or a polyglutamyl derivative thereof.

Claim 131 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 130, wherein said composition further comprises 5-methyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid or a polyglutamyl derivative thereof.

Claim 132 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 131, wherein said 5-methyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid or polyglutamyl derivative thereof and said 5-methyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid or polyglutamyl derivative thereof are present in equal amounts.

Claim 133 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 126, wherein the one or more natural isomers of reduced folate is 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid or a polyglutamyl derivative thereof.

Claim 134 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 133, wherein said composition further comprises no 5-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, or, if present, said composition further comprises 5-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid in an amount less than the amount of 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid present in said composition.

Claim 135 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 126, wherein the one or more natural isomers of reduced

folate is a combination of (i) 5-methyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid or a polyglutamyl derivative thereof and (ii) 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid or a polyglutamyl derivative thereof.

Claim 136 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 135, wherein said composition further comprises 5-methyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid or a polyglutamyl derivative thereof.

Claim 137 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 136, wherein said 5-methyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid or polyglutamyl derivative thereof and said 5-methyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid or polyglutamyl derivative thereof are present in equal amounts.

Claim 138 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 135, wherein said composition further comprises 5-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid or a polyglutamyl derivative thereof in an amount equal to the amount of 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid present in said composition.

Claim 139 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 135, wherein said composition further comprises no 5-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, or, if present, said composition further comprises 5-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid in an amount less than the amount of 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid present in said composition.

Claim 140 (previously presented) A composition according to claim 126, wherein each of the one or more natural isomers of reduced folate is substantially chirally pure.